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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 May 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 0900 EDT)

1. The American-owned, Liberian-registered tanker which the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram said was forced to turn back Monday from entering the Gulf of Aqaba still has not been identified, nor has such an incident been confirmed by any other source. The only known incident in which Egyptian forces have fired a warning shot remains the one on 28 May involving a Danish freighter.

25X1

2. Cairo's Middle East News Agency quotes Al-Ahram as stating in today's issue that the military contingents which have arrived and are continuing to arrive in Egypt from other Arab states will be deployed to Sharm ash-Shaykh as a symbol of Arab unity and determination.

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4. There have been no military developments which would alter the findings of the 26 May Special Report of the Watch Committee. The Israelis, however, still have the capability of attacking with little or no warning.

5. Israeli Foreign Minister Eban is quoted in the press as saying today that Israel will act alone to break the Arab blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba if international action is not effective soon. He refused to set a time limit on how long Israel will wait, but he told a news conference it would be a matter of weeks rather than months. "We will act alone if we must, but with others if we can," he said.

25X1

7. The Iraqi Government yesterday invited the Arab oil producing states to attend a meeting of oil ministers in Baghdad on 4 June for the purpose of unifying the Arab stand on withholding oil from "any state which takes part in an aggression on the Arab nation."

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8. Syrian President Atassi and Foreign Minister Makhus arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks on the Middle East crisis with Soviet leaders. Egyptian War Minister Shams Badran ended his visit a day earlier.

25X1

10. King Husayn arrived in Cairo today, was received by Nasir, and at last report was still at a meeting with the Egyptian president. The meeting is being well publicized.

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11. The UN Security Council meets again today at 3 p.m. Federenko's speech yesterday was notable for its absence of any reference to the Gulf of Aqaba or the Strait of Tiran, or to any precise Soviet position on the problem of innocent passage. The closest he got to the question was his repeated declarations of support for Arab actions in defense of their "sovereign rights" or "lawful rights." These rights were never specified with respect to the key problem.

LATE ITEM

12. Reuters quotes Cairo radio as saying that King Husayn and Nasir agreed today to sign a joint defense agreement following a three-hour meeting. The agreement is to be signed today.

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